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## Request for Interest

### Global Tobacco Prevention and Control: Research Partnerships for Advancing the Evidence Base for Global Tobacco Control

Date Issued: May 28, 2021

Date Response Due: July 5, 2021

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**CDC FOUNDATION CONTACT**  
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## SUMMARY OF REQUEST

The CDC Foundation, through funding from the *Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use*, is announcing a Request for Interest (RFI) from eligible academic institutions, research hubs, public health agencies and organizations interested in partnering with the CDC Foundation on quantitative research projects that utilize Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS) data to address tobacco control research gaps or priorities. Selected partners will work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the CDC Foundation to conduct research and data analysis that will inform country-level tobacco control efforts and advance the evidence base for global tobacco control.

The CDC Foundation will fund two separate projects up to \$160,000. Interested organizations are asked to respond to the RFI with a brief research plan and requested supporting documents. Research plans will be reviewed by subject matter experts on tobacco control. Finalists will be invited to submit a full proposal and work in partnership with CDC and the CDC Foundation to finalize the research question(s) and project.

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## BACKGROUND AND NEED

Globally, tobacco use is the leading cause of death, illness and impoverishment and kills more than 8 million people a year worldwide.<sup>1</sup> Robust monitoring helps countries tailor best practices to combat the tobacco epidemic. The *Monitoring the Global Tobacco Use* program builds public-private partnerships to enhance governments' capacity for tobacco surveillance and monitoring. The CDC Foundation collaborates with CDC, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international partners in implementing select components of the GTSS as well as capacity enhancement for tobacco control programs in low- and middle-income countries. The GTSS aims to enhance country capacity to design, implement and evaluate tobacco control interventions, and monitor key articles of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and components of the WHO MPOWER technical package. The GTSS includes the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS), the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), and Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS), which provide globally standardized data to track adult and youth tobacco use across the world, with the intent for countries to use the data to effect change through tobacco control policies and programs.

The CDC Foundation will establish research partnerships with organizations and institutions to utilize GTSS data and identify how GTSS data applies to tobacco control in low- and middle-income countries. The research projects resulting from these partnerships will identify and address these gaps in the literature and add to the evidence base, resulting in the advancement of tobacco control programs and policies in the country or region.

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. (2020, May 27). *Tobacco*. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/news-room/factsheets/detail/tobacco>.

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## RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS AND PRIORITIES

1. The research project must address gaps in existing research on country-specific or regional tobacco control priorities.
2. The research project must utilize GTSS data.
  - 2.1. GATS, GYTS and/or TQS data use is required.
  - 2.2. Additional data sources may be used to complement GTSS data, but this is not required.
  - 2.3. Qualitative research may be conducted in tandem with quantitative research if time and budget permit, but this is not required.
3. Research results are expected to advance the understanding of tobacco use and/or tobacco control issues in the country or region and inform future tobacco control efforts for the protection of public health.
4. Content areas include but are not limited to the following:
  - 4.1. Research and evaluation of tobacco control policy
  - 4.2. Economics of tobacco control
  - 4.3. Behavioral and social sciences applied to tobacco control
  - 4.4. Cessation
  - 4.5. Media, communication and/or marketing
  - 4.6. Evaluation studies
  - 4.7. Risk factors and health consequences related to tobacco use (beyond descriptive statistics)
  - 4.8. Novel and emerging products
  - 4.9. Secondhand smoke exposure
  - 4.10. Impact of smoke-free policies on tobacco use
  - 4.11. Impact of COVID-19 on tobacco use

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## RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS

In responding to the RFI, research plans should be submitted at the following link: [CDC Foundation Research Partnerships RFI](#). Research plans should be no more than 2 pages, single spaced, 12-point font, and should include the following:

1. Research Plan – 2 pages maximum – Required Attachment
  - 1.1. Briefly describe your research plan and the critical tobacco control questions it will answer. What gap in the literature is being addressed? Why is this topic important in this country/region? What are the potential public health implications and impact of this research project?
  - 1.2. Note the GTSS dataset and year(s) that will be utilized for this project and/or any other data sources to be considered.
  - 1.3. Briefly describe anticipated study design and data analysis plan (ex. study population, exposures, outcomes, and statistical methods, etc.).

- 1.4. Briefly describe the expected deliverables or results of this project and how they will be disseminated (ex. number of manuscripts created and submitted for publication, policy briefs created and potential avenues for dissemination, conference presentations, etc.).
2. Team and Organizational Qualifications – Required Attachment(s)
  - 2.1. Provide a brief justification explaining tobacco control research expertise of the institution and demonstrating previous success in tobacco control research.
  - 2.2. Note any existing or previous tobacco control partnerships or collaborations and how those have prepared the institution to collaborate with the CDC Foundation and CDC for this project.
  - 2.3. List key personnel to be involved in the project and their title, note the PI of the project, and indicate any positions to be filled (such as postdoctoral students) if the project is funded.
  - 2.4. Note any previous GTSS data analysis by team members or institution.
3. Budget Estimate – Required Attachment
  - 3.1. The project will run from approximately September 1, 2021 until December 31, 2022.
  - 3.2. Budget estimates should not exceed \$160,000 USD.
  - 3.3. An overall proposed budget should be submitted in table form. Include a brief supporting narrative for anticipated costs and expense categories (ex. salary, fringe benefits percent, supplies, etc.). All figures should be noted in USD.
4. The following attachments are optional:
  - 4.1. Previous work samples, such as tobacco control research publications.
  - 4.2. Team member biographies/CV.

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## APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

To be considered, applicants should not have any affiliation with or received support from the tobacco industry or its associates in the past five years.

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## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must be willing to work with CDC and the CDC Foundation throughout the grant process. Once research plans are received and evaluated, institutions will be invited to work with CDC and the CDC Foundation to create a full proposal for funding. If funded, recipient organizations will be required to submit a project narrative, budget, and timeline updates at 6-month intervals during the grant period. A final grant report will be due at the conclusion of the funding period and will outline any pending results and deliverables, such as manuscripts in process, plans for dissemination, sustainability plans and future tobacco control goals and projects of the institution. The CDC Foundation will provide reporting templates one month prior to each required report deadline.

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## TIMELINE

<b>Project Phase</b>	<b>Estimated Completion</b>
Research Plans Due	July 5, 2021
Invitation for Full Proposals Sent to Selected Institutions	By July 30, 2021
Grant Implementation Period	From Contract Execution Date through December 31, 2022

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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The CDC Foundation's GTSS Academy – Online platform to increase the implementation and use of GTSS data: <https://gtssacademy.org>

More information on global tobacco control at CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/global/index.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/global/gtss/index.htm>

<https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/global/gtss/gtssdata/index.html>

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